

**Remarks**

Claims 1, 3, 7 through 15, and 19 through 21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 through 5, 7 through 10, 13 through 17, and 19 have been rejected. Claims 6, 11, 12, 18, and 20 have been objected to. Claims 2, 4 through 6, and 16 through 18 have been canceled.

Applicant sincerely appreciates Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 11, 12, 18, and 20.

New claim 21 recites a fastener for connecting a back panel and a shoulder strap of a brassiere, including a first arm for engagement with the shoulder strap and a second arm connected to the first arm and at an angle with respect to the first arm, for engagement with a portion of the back panel. The fastener also includes a flange disposed between the first arm and second arm, and a pair of arcuate portions connecting the first arm and second arm with the flange. The flange is coplanar with the first and second arm, and the arcuate portions are symmetric about a centerline bisecting the angle. Claim 21 is fully supported by the disclosure in this application. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action asserts that under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), claims 1 through 5, 7 through 10, 13 through 17, and 19 are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 348,871 to Wales.

Independent claim 1 now incorporates features of claim 6. Examiner has indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now allowable, and that claims 3, 7 through 10, and 12 through 14, which depend from independent claim 1, are also allowable.

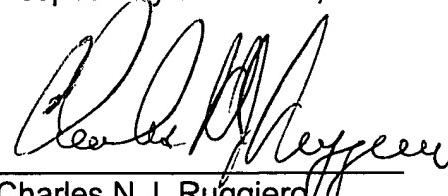
Independent claim 15 now incorporates features of claim 18. The Examiner has also indicated that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Consequently, claim 15 is now allowable, and claim 19, which depends from independent claim 15, is also allowable.

Claims 11 and 20 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate features of their respective base claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claims 11 and 20 are also now allowable.

Claim 21 is patentable over the cited references. For example, Wales does not disclose or suggest a pair of symmetric arcuate portions connecting a first arm and a second arm with a flange, the flange being coplanar with the first and second arm. Claim 21 is therefore patentable over Wales.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims presented in this application are patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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